

## Message Text

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ACTION AGR-20

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 PRS-01

EUR-25 NEA-10 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01

/091 W

----- 126188

R 140746Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1996

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 CANBERRA 6190

PASS: AGRICULTURE FOR REPORTS OFFICER, FAS/W

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EGEN, AS

SUBJECT: SPECIAL QUARTERLY REPORT LIVESTOCK AND MEAT

REF: CODE: 13C

1. SUMMARY. BEEF AND VEAL PRODUCTION CALENDER YEAR 1973 AND PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES FOR 1974. 1973 PROUDCTION NOW FORECAST AT 1.50 MILLION LONG TONS CARCASS WEIGHT OR ABOUT 12 PERCENT ABOVE PREVIOUS YEAR. EXCELLENT PASTORAL CONDITIONS NOW BEING EXPERIENCED CAUSING STRONG DEMAND FOR MORE STORE STOCK WHILE EXISTING CATTLE ON FARMS BEING RETAINED FOR FATTENING AND UTILIZATION OF PASTURE. HEAVY SLAUGHTER OF CATTLE PAST YEAR CAUSED SLOWING DOWN OF GROWTH IN BEEF CATTLE NUMBERS, BUT THERE IS SCOPE FOR INCREASE IN STOCKING RATES DUE TO AMPLE PASTURE AND FEED SUPPLY. ANY FURTHER SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES, AS IN RECENT YEARS OF CATTLE NUMBERS WILL BE GOVERNED BY PRODUCERS' INTENTIONS IN REGARD TO RE-BUILDING OF SHEEP FLOCKS.

2. BEEF AND VEAL EXPORTS DURING 1973 ARE LIKELY TO TOTAL 600,000 LONG TONS PRODUCT WEIGHT, OF WHICH 330,000 TONS TO US. THIS MEANS INCREASE IN US SHIPMENTS OF ABOUT 10 PERCENT OVERALL  
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EXPORTS ABOUT 20 PERCENT. ABOUT 236,000 TONS WERE SHIPPED TO

US DURING JAN/SEPT, LEAVING 94,000 TONS FOR FINAL QUARTER OF 1973. SINCE REMOVAL OF PRICE FREEZE ON BEEN ON 9 SEPTEMBER PRICES HAVE EASED BACK BUT EXPORTS HAVE BEEN MAINTAINED AT A HIGH LEVEL. THE REINTRODUCTION OF EC LEVIES AND THE IMPOSITION OF DUTIES IN UK HAS LED TO A FALL-OFF IN DEMAND.

3. MUTTON PRODUCTION DURING 1973 SHARPLY REDUCED FOLLOWING STEEP FALL IN SHEEP NUMBERS AND HIGH WOOL PRICES. EXCELLENT SEASONAL CONDITIONS FURTHER AGGRAVATED SHORTAGE OF SHEEP, WITH EWES VIRTUALLY UNPROCURABLE. SHEEP SHORTAGE IS LEADING MANY GRAZIERS INTO CATTLE TO UTILIZE FEED DESPITE HIGH COST OF STOCKERS. IT IS CLEAR THAT THE SLAUGHTER RATE FOR SHEEP AND LAMB WILL BE WELL DOWN FOR A FEW YEARS TO COME IF CURRENT WOOL PRICES HOLD. ALTHOUGH SLAUGHTER WAS STILL FAIRLY GOOD IN EARLY PART OF YEAR, A SHARP FALL BECAME EVIDENT IN APRIL AND WILL BE MAINTAINED FOR THE REMAINDER OF 1973. CONSEQUENTLY, MUTTON PRODUCTION IS EXPECTED TO DECLINE BY 35 PERCENT DURING 1973 TO ABOUT 300,000 LONG TONS CARCASS WEIGHT. EVEN THIS FIGURE MAY BE SOMEWHAT OPTIMISTIC. SHARP REDUCTION IN SUPPLY MEANS VOLUME AVAILABLE FOR EXPORT NOW ESTIMATED AT 100,000 TONS PRODUCT WEIGHT. ONLY SMALL AMOUNT WILL GO TO US AND OTHER MARKETS NOT PREPARED PAY CURRENT HIGH PRICES. JAPAN, CANADA, AND MIDDLE EAST WILL BE MAJOR BUYERS DURING 1973. LITTLE LAMB WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR EXPORT FROM AUSTRALIA LATER THIS YEAR, AS DOMESTIC MARKET STRONG AND SLAUGHTER EXPECTED 30 PERCENT DOWN ON LAST YEAR. REPORTED MATINGS FOR FAT LAMBS FOR 1973/74 ARE DOWN 17 PERCENT ON LAST SEASON, BUT THERE WAS AN INCREASE IN EWE MATINGS FOR WOOL PRODUCERS OF 6 PERCENT. OBVIOUSLY, MOST SHEEP FARMERS HAVE TAKEN THE LONGER VIEW AND OPTED FOR WOOL RATHER THAN FAT LAMB. END SUMMARY.

#### PART A - BEEF AND VEAL

1971 1972 1973 A) 1974 A)

I. NUMBERS ON FARMS '000 HEAD 24,373 27,373 29,199 30-31000

B) CATTLE SLAUGHTERED '000 5,042 6,109 7,000 7,800

C) CALVES SLAUGHTERED '000 1,050 1,281 1,500 1,200

NOTE: A) PRELIM. ESTS.

#### II. 1973 MEAT PRODUCTION FORECAST

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EXCELLENT SEASONAL CONDITIONS ARE STILL BEING EXPERIENCED OVER VIRTUALLY THE ENTIRE CONTINENT SINCE LATE RAINS COMMENCED IN EARLY JULY. MILD WEATHER HAS ENCOURAGED PASTURE GROWTH AND IN MOST DISTRICTS GRAZING CONDITIONS ARE THE BEST FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS. EVEN THOUGH DEMAND FOR RESTOCKING IS STRONG, A HIGH LEVEL OF MARKETINGS IS EXPECTED, AND CONSEQUENTLY IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT PEAK KILLING SEASON WILL BE EXTENDED. SLAUGHTER OF CATTLE DURING FIRST EIGHT MONTHS 1973 WAS ABOUT

0.11 MILLION HEAD ABOVE COMPARABLE PERIOD IN 1972. SLAUGHTER DURING REMAINDER OF YEAR EXPECTED SIMILIAR OR ONLY SLIGHTLY ABOVE 1972 AND HENCE TOTAL KILL NOW ESTIMATED 7.0 MILLION. CALF SLAUGHTER EXPECTED TO BE UP FROM LAST YEAR. CATTLE SLAUGHTER WEIGHTS SOMEWHAT LOWER THAN LAST YEAR DURING FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1973.

## A) PRODUCTION ( LONG TONS CARCASS WEIGHT

	1971	1972	1973EST	1974EST
BEEF	1,047,855	1,254,633	1,440,000	1,520,000
VEAL	38,270	45,827	60,000	60,000
TOTAL	1,086,125	1,300,460	1,500,000	1,580,000

## B) S&amp;D BEEF AND VEAL CARCASS WEIGHT EQUIVALENT IN LONG TONS

## SUPPLY:

1. STOCKS JAN. 1	28,476	43,977	45,713	N.A
2. PRODUCTION	1,086,125	1,300,460	1,500,000	1,580,000
3. IMPORTS	329	41	50	50
4. TOTAL SUPPLY	1,114,930	1,344,478	1,545,763	1,580,050

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EUR-25 NEA-10 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01

/091 W

----- 126702

R 140746Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1997

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 CANBERRA 6190

## DISTRIBUTION:

## 1. DOMESTIC CONS

INC. CANNED	502,997	517,749	540,000	550,000
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## 2. EXPORTS:

BONE-IN BEEF	39,880	10,350	10,000A)	10,000A)
BONELESS BEEF	491,647	717,100	850,000	930,000
VEAL	6,429	18,566	40,000	40,000
CANNED	30,000	35,000	50,000	50,050

3. END. STOCKS 43,977 45,713 55,763 N.A.

4. TOTAL DIST. 1,114,930 1,344,478 1,545,763 1,580,050

NOTE: PRODUCT WEIGHT X 1.54 EQUALS CWE

A) BONE-IN BEEF EXPORTS ESTIMATED ON ASSUMPTION NO SALES TO USSR THIS YEAR.

III. 1. AUSTRALIAN MEAT BOARD HAS SUSPENDED ALL DIVERSIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR EXPORTS DURING 1973. WITH HIGH PRICES NOW RULING IN MOST IMPORTING COUNTRIES, MEAT EXPORT DIVERSIFICATION SCHEME HAS ACHIEVED ITS OBJECTIVES OF AVOIDING ABSOLUTE DEPENDENCE ON THE US MARKET AND DEVELOPING MARKETS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD. INCREASING CONSUMPTION IN JAPAN (160,000 METRIC TON BEEF IMPORT QUOTA FOR APRIL/MARCH 1973/74). FORECAST BEEF AND VEAL EXPORTS TO US BY QUARTERS DURING CALENDAR 1973, IN LONG TONS PRODUCT WEIGHT, AS FOLLOWS:

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	1972	1973 EST	1974 EST
1ST QUARTER		48,800	62,100 ACTUAL
2ND QUARTER		81,200	68,600 ACTUAL
3RD QUARTER		100,500	105,500 ACTUAL
4TH QUARTER		73,038	93,800
TOTAL CALENDER YEAR		303,538	330,000 350,000

NOTE: INCLUDES ALLOWANCE FOR REJECTIONS OF ABOUT 6,000 TONS

2. BEEF AND VEAL EXPORTS BY DESTINATION:

	1973 EST	1974 EST
US	330,000	350,000
CANADA	30,000	30,000
UK	85,000	60,000
EEC	5,000	5,000
JAPAN	120,000	170,000
MALAYSIA	3,000	3,000
USSR	NIL	NIL
OTHERS	27,000	32,000
TOTAL	600,000	650,000

NOTE: EXPORTS TO JAPAN REVISED UPWARD AS NEW QUOTA (90,000 METRIC TONS) ANNOUNCED NOVEMBER

PART B - SHEEP AND MUTTON 1972 1973 EST 1974 EST

1. NUMBERS ON FRAMS '000 HEAD 162,901 142,096 N.A

A) SHEEP SLAUGHTERED '000 27,970 16,000 15,000

B) LAMBS SLAUGHTERED '000 20,965 13,000 14,000

NOTE: SHEEP AND LAMB SLAUGHTER REVISED DOWNWARD DUE HIGH WOOL

PRICE AND CONSEQUENT ENCOURAGEMENT TO BUILD UP FLOCKS. GOOD SEASONAL AND PASTURE CONDITIONS IN SHEEP/WHEAT BELT ADDITIONAL FACTOR, WHILE TOTAL SHEEP NUMBERS MUCH LOWER THAN EARLIER ANTICIPATED.

## II. S&D MUTTON CARCASS WEIGHT EQUIVALENT IN LONG TONS.

A) SUPPLY	1972	1973 EST	1974 EST
STOCKS JAN. 1	38,840	29,620	N.A.
PRODUCTION	524,982	300,000	280,000
IMPORTS	NIL	NIL	NIL
TOTAL SUPPLY	563,822	329,620	280,000

### B) DISTRIBUTION

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INC. CANNED	247,537	110,000	125,000
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### EXPORTS:

BONE-IN AND BONELESS	271,665	180,000	150,000
CANNED	15,000	14,000	15,000
ENDING STOCKS	29,620	25,620	N.A.
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	563,822	329,620	280,000

NOTE: PRODUCT WEIGHT BONED MUTTON X 2 EQUALS CWE

## III. EXPORTS OF MUTTON, PRODUCT WEIGHT IN LONG TONS, BY DESTINATION

	1972	1973	1974
US	25,829	6,000	6,000
CANADA	19,919	12,000	10,000
UK	15,336	9,000	8,000
EEC	3,839	2,000	2,000
JAPAN	75,398	60,000	50,000
USSR	NIL	NIL	NIL
MALAYSIA	4,377	2,000	2,000
MIDDLE EAST	10,349	15,000	10,000
OTHERS	30,301	9,000	2,000
TOTAL	185,378	100,000	90,000

NOTE: GREECE, WHICH PURCHASED 16,000 TONS IN 1972 HAS PURCHASED VIRTUALLY NOTHING THIS YEAR. PRESENT INDICATION SHIPMENTS TO US LOWER THAN FIRST PROJECTED, AND MAY NOT EXCEED 6,000 TONS. EXPORTS TO US BY QUARTERS FOR 1973 AS FOLLOWS:

	1972	1973 EST	1974
1ST QUARTER	8,644	1,830	ACTUAL
2ND QUARTER	9,933	1,742	ACTUAL
3RD QUARTER	3,171	1,785	ACTUAL
4TH QUARTER	4,081	1,643	
TOTAL CALENDAR YEAR	25,829	6,000	6,000

SUPPLIES OF LAMBS ARE EXTREMELY SHORT, AND SLAUGHTER IS EXPECTED TO BE 40 PERCENT DOWN ON 1972. ACCORDINGLY, ONLY NEGLIGIBLE AMOUNTS OF LAMB WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR EXPORT THIS SEASON. CURRENT AUCTION PRICES OF 30,000 TO 35.50 DOLLARS AUST. FOR PRIME

LAMBS 29-36 LB CARCASS WEIGHT ARE \$5A-10 BELOW PEAK AUGUST LEVELS.  
DECONTROL AFTER NOVEMBER 1, 1974.  
HARROP

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LIVESTOCK, PRODUCTION, EXPORTS, MEATS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 NOV 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** smithrj  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SPECIAL QUARTERLY REPORT LIVESTOCK AND MEAT  
**TAGS:** EAGR, EGEN, AS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005